Northeastern Minnesota Book Awards

24th Annual Event to Be Celebrated May 17 in UMD’s Kirby Ballroom

Novelist Brian Freeman will speak at the 24th annual Northeastern Minnesota Book Awards (NEMBA) on the evening of Thursday, May 17, in UMD’s Kirby Ballroom. NEMBA is sponsored by the UMD Library to honor books published in 2011 that capture the spirit of the Northland and substantially represent northeastern Minnesota.

A total of 47 titles are competing in the following categories: (1) Fiction, (2) Poetry, (3) Nonfiction, (4) Memoir and Creative Nonfiction, (5) Children’s Literature, and (6) Art / Photography.

Prizes include $200 for the winner in each category, with glass plaques and 100 NEMBA book seals going to winners as well as authors whose books are chosen for honorable mention.

This year’s speaker, Brian Freeman, is an international best-selling author of psychological suspense novels. His books—often set in Duluth and featuring Duluth police lieutenant Jonathan Stride—have been sold in 46 countries and published in 20 languages. His debut thriller, Immoral, won the Macavity Award and was chosen as International Book of the Month by book clubs around the world. His seventh book, Spilled Blood, has just been released.

“I’m delighted to be part of an event that celebrates books and writers in the Northland,” says Freeman. “We have such a rich community of storytellers in northern Minnesota, and this is our chance to put their contributions to our culture front and center. Their stories help us better understand the place we live, whether it’s through history, landscape, images, or people.”

Freeman is known as an engaging speaker. Prior to embarking on his career as an author, he established a reputation as a communication strategist helping organizations build relationships with clients, customers, donors, employees, and other important constituencies through the use of innovative "storytelling" tools.

Support for NEMBA comes from the UMD Library as well as the Friends of the Duluth Public Library and Lake Superior Writers. A prize drawing sponsored by UMD Stores will give participants a chance to win former NEMBA award-winning titles. Yes, there will be pie! For more information, call 218-726-7889 or visit the NEMBA web page: http://www.d.umn.edu/lib/nemba/index.htm.

Thursday, May 17: Kirby Ballroom, UMD Campus
5:00 - 6:30 Book Fair / Refreshments
6:30 - 8:00 Speaker Brian Freeman / Awards Presentation
8:00 - 9:00 Book Fair Continues
Writing Workshop Offered: The Six Senses of Place

Lake Superior Writers offers a writing workshop facilitated by NEMBA keynote speaker Brian Freeman from noon to 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 17, in the UMD Library Rotunda reading room.

Most writers will tell you that they want the setting of their books to be every bit as much a character as the people. But how do you achieve that effect? What are the techniques for making your place come to life on the page? And how do you use that sense of place to elevate your story and your characters?

In this special writing workshop, international best-selling author Brian Freeman—who has set many of his books in Duluth—will discuss the importance of place in fiction.

He and the workshop participants will explore the five senses that define place for readers, along with a sixth sense, imagination, that truly brings a setting to life.

Be sure to bring your own examples of authors who do a beautiful job of capturing “place” in their writing, and share why their writing speaks to you.

Payment is accepted in advance or at the door (cash and checks only, please). Refreshments will be served.

To register, contact Mary at writers@lakesuperior-writers.org or call (612) 619-7136.

24th Annual NEMBA Nominees

FICTION

BlizzardBall, Dennis Kelly, North Star Press of St. Cloud
Dead Ahead: A Jo Spence Mystery, Jen Wright, Clover Valley Press
A Long-Forgotten Truth, Rachel Ballard, Rozlyn Press
Where Echoes Die, Pam Leonard, North Star Press of St. Cloud
Where Memories Dream: Campfire Stories for the Boundary Waters, Steven Coz, Savage Press

POETRY

Birdland, Kathy McTavish, Wildwood River Press
Cloud Birds, Sheila Packa, Wildwood River Press
East of Nowhere, Larry Christianson, North Star Press of St. Cloud

NONFICTION

Agates of Lake Superior: Stunning Varieties and How They Are Formed, Dan R. Lynch and Bob Lynch, Adventure Publications
And the Snow Came Up to Here: Schools of Carlton County, Minnesota, Nancy C. Hanson, published by author with the assistance of Dovetailed Press
Anishinaabe Syndicated: A View from the Rez, Jim Northrup, Minnesota Historical Society Press
A Boundary Waters History: Canoeing Across Time, Stephen Wilbers, The History Press
Campfires and Loon Calls: Travels in the Boundary Waters, Jerry Apps, photography by Steve Apps, Fulcrum Publishing
Cooking in Canoe Country, Robert Black with Susan Peterson, Carmen Black, and Maja Black, Nodin Press
Dorothy Molter: The Root Beer Lady, Sarah Guy-Levar and Terri Schocke, Adventure Publications
You Can Browse Them Now!

How many times have you wished that you could go behind the circulation counter to browse the multimedia collections shelved back there?

While the majority of UMD Library’s audiovisual materials need to remain in closed stacks to safeguard them for classroom use, audiobooks have now been moved out into the public area.

You can find them between the Bestseller collection and the Newspaper shelves on the first floor of the library.

In preparation for moving these books on disk (known as the ABCs or the audiobook collection), library staff members have reclassified them in Library of Congress subject classification order. This will allow them to be browsed by subject area and also to be analyzed by subject, which is important for statistical evaluation of the library’s collections.

The loan period of two weeks per checkout remains the same as it had been before. This matches the loan period for the Bestseller book collection and is in keeping with the popularity of the collection, which sometimes includes best-selling titles.
Memo from the Director

I do not know my exact date of retirement, but I do know that it will be before the next edition of the Library Connection. So I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the library and on campus for making my time at UMD meaningful, productive, and enjoyable.

For over 38 years, I have been a staff member of the University of Minnesota at both the Twin Cities and Duluth campuses. During my nearly 18 years at UMD, I have witnessed dramatic change for the better, and I think the future will be more exciting.

As the world of information continues to evolve, this library must continually adapt to make its services relevant and useful to faculty and students.

The library’s staff is outstanding and is committed to continuing to make UMD Library an integral part of the campus. There are many current initiatives that will help the library serve the campus in new ways. The d-Commons, UMD Library’s institutional repository, will help digitally preserve unique regional and UMD information resources while making them available to the world. The development of a learning commons will allow faculty, students, and staff to collaborate in an open environment. We will continue to migrate to digital versions of resources while maintaining print and media.

It is not easy to retire, but I do believe that it is the right time for me. I do wish the very best for the library and its staff as well as the UMD campus community.

“During my nearly 18 years at UMD, I have witnessed dramatic change for the better, and I think the future will be more exciting.”

Public Printing Payment Changes

Over the summer, UMD will replace its current Debitek cash-to-card system with new technology. We expect it to be easy to use and to have added security and convenience.

The new system will store cash value information not on the card itself but in a database separate from the U Card, much like Dining Dollars are currently tracked for students.

For guests, who aren’t in the U Card system, there will be printing cards available. Each such card will be associated with its own account, and cash-to-card machines will allow someone to add funds to the account for their card. There will be a transition period for customers to use up or transfer existing Debitek funds.
Mentoring a Future Librarian

As a junior majoring in English at UMD, Kayleen Jones already knew that she wanted to become a librarian. Her love of reading combined with her desire to interact with people made the general idea of entering the field of library and information sciences appealing.

She gained some experience last summer as a part-time shelver at the Duluth Public Library to get a better idea of what being a librarian might be like, but she wanted to know more.

Her English major offered internship opportunities, but they were geared toward the publishing industry. When Kayleen’s advisor, Associate Professor Carol Bock, learned that Kayleen had her sights set on the field of library science, she arranged an internship for her at the UMD Library.

Reference & Electronic Resources Librarian Sunshine Carter was willing to coordinate the effort, but a good many other staff members contributed to mentoring Kayleen this semester, including Tom Ambrosi, Deb Johnson, Pat Maus, Mags David, Martha Eberhart, Kim Pittman, and Jodi Carlson Grebinoski.

The aspiring librarian was introduced to library ethical standards, conducting a reference interview, instructional literacy standards, helping freshmen with research papers, keeping track of electronic resources, cataloging and making sense of the various subject classification systems, collection development, archives, and government documents.

Kayleen was hoping to get a feel for what a librarian does, and she more than accomplished that goal. “I didn’t realize that there were so many specialists in libraries, and the many different facets of the profession.”

Of all the activities she observed at the UMD Library, she particularly liked shadowing Kim Pittman, an instructional librarian, as she prepared for and taught College Writing courses, and she also enjoyed fielding questions at the reference desk.

Probably one of the most important parts of the internship for Kayleen was “witnessing interactions between the librarians and their patrons.” Kayleen was impressed with the professional demeanor and the kind and helpful attitude that UMD librarians bring to their jobs every day. “I’ve definitely learned that this is a skill that needs to be honed, and it is something I want to take with me, the practice of being kind and helpful with people.”

Sunshine said that she enjoyed working with Kayleen. "Mentoring and giving back to the profession are important tenants of librarianship. I’ve really enjoyed the opportunity to supervise Kayleen during her internship here at UMD Library. Kayleen's interest in all aspects of librarianship has been energizing for me as she's investigated the what's and why's of our profession."
Student Employees Blossom at the UMD Library

Library staff celebrated the contributions of their student employees the week of April 9-13 during National Student Employee Appreciation Week.

Departments posted “thank you” posters, balloons, streamers, and a flower patch in the library entranceway to acknowledge their student workers.

Wednesday was sandwich day, and Friday was game night. Staff, students, and their friends attended an after-hours event in the Rotunda reading room, but they weren’t reading.

Everyone enjoyed a barbecue/potluck and big-screen trivia games complete with grocery prizes.

Students’ names were printed on the flowers that bloomed in the library entranceway during National Student Employee Appreciation Week.

STAFF NEWS

Business Reference Librarian Jim Vileta is the recipient of the 2012 Student Award for Outstanding Staff. Jim was chosen by a committee made up primarily of students for the Outstanding Staff award, given to a non-student, non-faculty employee “who has displayed a genuine concern for the well-being of students and the University.” All of the Student Awards recipients were honored at a reception and program on Sunday, April 15, in the Kirby Student Center Ballroom.

Principal Office & Administrative Specialist Stephanie Maus-Sandness has moved to full-time employee status as of April 9.

Reference Librarian Gabriel Gardner also moved from 75 percent to a full-time appointment in April.

Pamela Enrici, Chair of the Engineering Division of the Special Libraries Association, attended its annual Leadership Meeting in Atlanta in January. She is representing the Engineering Division on the planning committee of the Special Libraries Association annual meeting.

Library Exhibits at Techfest 2012

Techfest started in 1997 as a way to share the many ways that technology is being used successfully at UMD to help students learn. It was an annual event in the beginning but is now presented in even-numbered years. That doesn't mean it has lost its impact or popularity, however, as often over a thousand people attend.

UMD Library staff members have participated in every Techfest, and this year (on March 23), they demonstrated many new services and resources.

Mobile UMD Library Web Site

This new mobile site has been a project of graduate research assistant Robert Nelson, employed part-time with the Systems team. He is working on a mobile site that would allow students and faculty/staff to use their phones to search for, request, and book items. You can view the test URL at http://www.d.umn.edu/lib/mobile/4/. This mobile site currently allows booking of today's group study rooms only.

New Group Study Room Booking Page

Improvements have been made to the booking page used by students and faculty/staff to reserve group study rooms in advance and to view currently available non-bookable rooms. The new features include: easier login (eliminating the dual login requirement); click-and-drag selection of desired time period; better instructions on the booking page; and improved usability with two "Book It" buttons rather than a button for each room.

Ask Us!/Text Us!

A new Twilio telephone number (218-305-4600) has improved reliability of the Ask Us! service. Personal widgets on librarian pages and LibGuides now roll over to a desk widget if the person is away, providing constant service. Chat widgets are available on 404 library Web pages as well as on EBSCO database pages.

Get It!

A new online tutorial provides a demonstration of how to use Get It! Alternatively, step-by-step screen shots (http://www.d.umn.edu/lib/circ/get-it.htm) provide instructions for new users of this service.

Digital Commons

UMD Library's digital scanning project is known as d-Commons. Current projects include digitization of American Indian Tribal newspapers, the Congdon diaries, as well as UMD Yearbooks.

New Databases

Some of the new resources shared at Techfest 2012 included Naxos Video, UMD Online Theses and Dissertations, ASTM Standards, Sanborn Maps, BIZ Miner, COS Pivot, SCIVAL Funding, and SCOPUS.
LAKE SUPERIOR LIBRARIES SYMPOSIUM IS LAUNCHED

The first-ever Lake Superior Libraries Symposium will be presented June 1, and reservations are now being accepted.

Spearheaded by library leaders from UW-Superior, Superior Public Library, the University of Minnesota Duluth, Northern Waters Library Service, and many other organizations, the goal of the Symposium is to share the collective knowledge of area academic, public, and special libraries to enable our communities to excel in today’s information-rich world.

The one-day event will feature a keynote address at 9 a.m. by Eli Neiburger, named a 2011 Library Journal “mover & shaker,” speaking on the topic “Access Schmaccess: Libraries in the Age of Information Ubiquity.”

Neiburger is Associate Director for IT and Production at Ann Arbor District Library, and he is known for bringing gaming into the library environment and for reaching library users in innovative ways.

Sessions presented by local librarians will be offered throughout the day, including ones by UMD librarian Pamela Enrici, “Science and Engineering Reference Resources for the General Librarian”; Sunshine Carter, “Simple Stats at UMD”; and Pat Maus, who will co-present “Online Digital Collections for the Non-Archivist” with Laura Jacobs from UWS.

Our own Kim Pittman is one of the event organizers.

To register, go to https://sites.google.com/site/lakesuperiorlibrariessymposium/home.

You Are Now an Artist @ the Library

UMD Library is dedicating prime wall space for the purpose of displaying student artwork.

Currently installed in the “boomerang” corner of the first-floor reading room is a showing of Jeff Studenski’s project, “You Are Now an Artist.”

Consisting of 31 mounted pieces, including one shot of the UMD Library in winter, the exhibit was made possible by the curiosity of the individuals who chose to respond to anonymous flyers posted around campus inviting people to submit images.

The flyers simply said, “Take a Photo, then Text or Email it to youarenowanartist@gmail.com.”

Without knowing what would happen to the photos, people started sending their images, offering small snapshots of life at UMD.

Jeff’s project was meant to illustrate how photography has become part of our everyday lives. The availability of cameras on smartphones creates the opportunity for people to document much more of what happens to them, and this project blurs the lines between casual photography and photography as an art form.

The Library plans to use the first-floor reading room corner space to display more student art projects in the future.
Campus Creates Stress-Less Week

As the semester comes to a close, the Library is teaming up with other departments across campus to create “Stress-Less Week,” a series of events from April 30 to May 4 designed to help students relax and unwind as they prepare for finals week.

The week’s events will kick off on Monday, April 30, with a free yoga session in the Library Rotunda (time TBA) led by instructors from Yoga North. On Tuesday, May 1, enjoy a birding walk through Bagley Nature Area led by Recreational Sports Outdoor Program’s Tim Bates (meet at noon outside the library entrance).

“Pet Away Stress” will be a chance for students to relax with canine visitors from Animal Allies on Wednesday, May 2 (location/time TBA).

Stressed students can take a break at the Tweed Museum of Art, a great place to relax and look at exhibits, or make use of the walking track or climbing wall at RSOP.

An hour of classic cartoons will be offered in Library 119 on Friday, May 4, from noon to 1 p.m.

Throughout the week, de-stressing activities will be available in Library 119. Students can make their own stress balls or relax with coloring sheets, puzzles, and board games.

For more information, contact Gabriel Gardner (gardnerg@d.umn.edu, 218-726-6603) or Kim Pittman (kpittman@d.umn.edu, 218-726-7829).

Why I came to the UMD Library during a blizzard…

On Wednesday, February 29, Duluth and surrounding areas experienced a severe late-winter snowstorm. Although the UMD campus was closed, intrepid Circulation Services Manager Liz Benson Johnson and lead student desk assistant Amy Redfield managed to open the library facility for most of the afternoon.

Curious about the students who found their way to the UMD Library that day, Liz conducted an informal survey to find out how important access to the building was to those students.

At closing time, as the 48 students who were in the building were leaving, Liz collected their email addresses and sent them a Google survey. These were the results:

- 96 percent of the students came to the Library to do homework.
- 57 percent came without knowing that the building would be open—they just took a chance that it might be. Another 20 percent found out because a friend called or sent them a message.
- 64 percent used an open study space, and 21 percent used a group study room.
- 14 percent used a computer, and 7 percent used a printer.
- 68 percent said they would have studied elsewhere had the library been closed.
- 78 percent live on campus but a little over 20 percent came from off campus.
- 29 percent said they would like the Library to be open during its regular hours during snow emergencies and 29 percent suggested that noon to 8 p.m. would be useful hours.

Not surprisingly, the people polled were very grateful that the building was open. Most liked being able to use the building because “it provided a good place to study.” Though the students were happy to have access, many wished they could have stayed longer than the 4:30 p.m. closing time. One commented, “The Library should be open as many hours as possible, depending on when the storm hits, when the worst conditions are, etc.”
UMD Library Hours

Finals Week Hours
May 5, 2012 – May 11, 2012

Saturday, May 5
9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 6
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 a.m.

Monday-Thursday, May 7-10
7:30 a.m. - 1:00 a.m.

Friday, May 11
7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Summer Hours
May 12-July 27, 2012

Monday-Thursday
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Friday
7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday
Noon – 5 p.m.

Exceptions:
Saturday-Sunday, May 12-13
CLOSED

Monday, May 28
CLOSED

Wednesday, July 4
CLOSED

See more hours at www.d.umn.edu/lib/admin/hours.htm

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